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November 20, 2007

# FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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|       | Fax: (571) 273-0125  |                  |
| From  | James A. Oliff   |                  |
| Your  | Ref.: 10/589,898   | Our Ref.: 129122 |
| Numl  | ber of Pages Sent (Including cover sheet):                     | 19               |
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|  | . 10/589,898 F  | irst Named Inventor:   | Yukihiro NAKASAKA   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| olication No   |   | Attomey Docket No.:  | 129122  |  |  |  |
| e of the ention:   | NTAKE AIR AMOUNT VARIATIO   | ON DETECTOR  |   |  |  |  |
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| ROGRAM.<br>ROGRAM.   | AND PETITIONS TO MAKE THE ABO   | ;  | PROSECUTION HIGHWAY (PPH) PILOT<br>PLICATION SPECIAL UNDER THE PPH PILOT  |  |  |  |
| e above-k  | dentified application validly claims prior tion(s).   | nty under 35 U.S.C. 1  | 19(a) and 37 CFR 1.55 to one or more corresponding  |  |  |  |
| ne JPO at  | oplication number(s) is/are: $1)$ $ m IP$   | A 2005 -004169 2   | JP A 2005-041240  |  |  |  |
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This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 119, 37 CFR 1.55, and 37 CFR 1.102(d). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 36 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including galbering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form end/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO: Office of the Commissioner for Patents at 571-273-0125, Attention: Magdalen Greenfilef. Greenilef.

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|   | 10/589,898                      | First Named Inventor:   | Yukihiro NAKASAKA  |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| pfication No.:  | 10/303,070                      | THIS TREATMENT OF THE PARTY OF |  |
| . Claims Corre  | spondence Table:                |   |  |
| claims in US<br>application   | Patentable Clain JP Application | on Explanation  | garding the correspondence   |
| -15   | 1-15                            | natentable clai   | The pending U.S. Application correspond to ms 1-15 of the JP application, with the exception that a contain no multiple dependencies.                            |
| 6   | 1                               | alaim 1 of the  | e pending U.S. Application corresponds to patentable JP application with the exception that claim 16 has amended to replace the recitation "means" with "unit".  |
| 17  | 5                               | alaim 5 of the  | ne pending U.S. Application corresponds to patentable JP application with the exception that claim 16 has amended to replace the recitation "means" with "unit". |
| 18  | 9                               | alaim 0 of the  | ne pending U.S. Application corresponds to patentable IP application with the exception that claim 16 has amended to replace the recitation "means" with "unit". |
| Claim 19 of the pending U.S. Application corresponds to claim 3 of the JP application with the exception that claim been slightly amended to replace the recitation "means" |                                 |   | IP confication with the exception that claim 10 has  |
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| ili. All the clai<br>JPO application  | ms in the US applica            | tion sufficiently corres  | pond to the patentable/allowable claims in the   |
|   |                                 |   |  |
| IV. Payment o   | )T P865:                        |   | or ord 447/h) so mailed by 27 CE   |
| The Commissi<br>1.102(d) to   | Deposit Account                 | No. 15-0401   | on fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h) as required by 37 CF   |
|   | Credit Card, Cred               | dit Card Payment Form (   | P IO-2036) is straction.   |
| Signature /   | Alak                            |   | Date: November 20, 2007  |
| Name  | 7001                            |   | Registration Number 42,719   |
|   | n S. Kern                       | •   | 1/08/24/24/24  |

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Member with respect to the subject matter of the feeded.

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may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)). A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals. determinations about individuals.

determinations about individuals.

A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the Ilmitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation,

(170050U)S TSN 2005 - 0942US.a

# **STATEMENT**

I, <u>Hidekazu Ohnishi</u>, a translator residing at <u>6-2-6.NISHISHIZU, SAKURA-SHI</u>, <u>CHIBA 285-0845 JAPAN</u> am the translator of the documents attached and I state that English translations of these documents are accurate.

Signature of Translator

Dated

11/12/2007

81.9 787S 836 20Y

English translation of the allowable claims in the GTODSOUSE Corresponding JP application

# **CLAIMS**

1. An intake air amount variation detector for detecting intake air amount variations among cylinders of a multiple-cylinder internal combustion engine, the device comprising:

injection amount control means for changing a fuel injection amount from an injection amount for stoichiometric operation to either an increased amount or a decreased amount;

computation means for determining the amount of a torque or rotation speed change that occurs when the fuel injection amount is changed by the injection amount control means; and

output means for outputting the torque or rotation speed change amount determined by the computation means as an index value that indicates the degree of intake air amount variations among the cylinders.

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2. The intake air amount variation detector according to claim 1, further comprising:

comparison means for comparing a predetermined reference value with the amount of a change that occurs when the injection amount control means increases the fuel injection amount from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation; and

judgment means, which, when the amount of the change is greater than the reference value, judges that a permissible level is exceeded by the intake air amount variations among the cylinders.

3. The intake air amount variation detector according to claim 1, further comprising:

comparison means for comparing a predetermined reference value with the amount of a change that occurs when the injection amount control means decreases the fuel injection amount from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation; and

judgment means, which, when the amount of the change is smaller than the reference value, judges that a permissible level is exceeded by the intake air amount variations among the cylinders.

- 4. The intake air amount variation detector according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the injection amount control means periodically increases or decreases the fuel injection amount from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation by a predetermined amount; and wherein the computation means extracts a change component having the same frequency as a fuel injection amount change frequency from a torque or rotation speed change, and determines the amplitude of the extracted change component as the amount of the change.
  - 5. An intake air amount variation detector for detecting the intake air amount variations among cylinders of a multiple-cylinder internal combustion engine, the device comprising:

injection amount control means for changing a fuel injection amount for a particular one of the cylinders from an injection amount for stoichiometric operation to either an increased amount or a

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#### decreased amount;

computation means for determining the amount of a torque or rotation speed change that occurs when the fuel injection amount for the particular cylinder is changed by the injection amount control means; and

output means for outputting the torque or rotation speed change amount determined by the computation means as an index value that indicates the degree of intake air amount variation in the particular cylinder.

6. The intake air amount variation detector according to claim 5, further comprising:

comparison means for comparing a predetermined reference value with the amount of a change that occurs when the injection amount control means increases the fuel injection amount for the particular cylinder from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation; and

judgment means, which, when the amount of the change is greater than the reference value, judges that a permissible level is exceeded by an undue increase in the intake air amount in the particular cylinder.

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7. The intake air amount variation detector according to claim 5, further comprising:

comparison means for comparing a predetermined reference value with the amount of a change that occurs when the injection amount control means decreases the fuel injection amount for the particular cylinder from the injection amount for

stoichiometric operation; and

judgment means, which, when the amount of the change is smaller than the reference value, judges that a permissible level is exceeded by an undue decrease in the intake air amount in the particular cylinder.

8. The intake air amount variation detector according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the injection amount control means periodically increases or decreases the fuel injection amount for the particular cylinder from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation by a predetermined amount; and wherein the computation means extracts a change component having the same frequency as a fuel injection amount change frequency for the particular cylinder from a torque or rotation speed change, and determines the amplitude of the extracted change component as the amount of the change.

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9. An intake air amount variation detector for detecting the intake air amount variations among cylinders of a multiple-cylinder internal combustion engine, the device comprising:

injection amount control means for changing a fuel injection amount from an injection amount for stoichiometric operation to either an increased amount or a decreased amount;

computation means for determining, on an individual cylinder basis, the amount of a torque or rotation speed change that occurs when the fuel injection amount is changed by the injection amount

control means; and

output means for outputting the torque or rotation speed change amount determined by the computation means as an index value that indicates the degree of intake air amount variation in an individual cylinder.

10. The intake air amount variation detector according to claim 9, further comprising:

10 comparison means for comparing, on an individual cylinder basis, a predetermined reference value with the amount of the change that occurs when the injection amount control means increases the fuel injection amount from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation; and

judgment means, which, when the amount of the change is greater than the reference value, judges that a permissible level is exceeded by an undue increase in the intake air amount in an individual cylinder.

11. The intake air amount variation detector according to claim 9, further comprising:

comparison means for comparing, on an individual cylinder basis, a predetermined reference value with the amount of the change that occurs when the injection amount control means decreases the fuel injection amount from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation; and

judgment means, which, when the amount of the change is smaller than the reference value, judges that a permissible level is exceeded by an undue

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decrease in the intake air amount in an individual cylinder.

5 according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the injection amount control means periodically increases or decreases the fuel injection amount from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation by a predetermined amount; and wherein the computation means extracts a change component having the same frequency as a fuel injection amount change frequency from a torque or rotation speed change sampled on an individual cylinder basis, and determines the amplitude of the extracted change component as the amount of the change in an individual cylinder.

13. An intake air amount variation detector for detecting the intake air amount variations among cylinders of a multiple-cylinder internal combustion engine, the device comprising:

first injection amount control means for changing the fuel injection amount for a particular one of the cylinders from an injection amount for stoichiometric operation to an increased amount;

first computation means for determining the amount of a torque or rotation speed change that occurs when the fuel injection amount for the particular cylinder is changed by the first injection amount control means;

second injection amount control means, which, when the torque or rotation speed change amount determined by the first computation means is not

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greater than a predetermined reference value, decreases the fuel injection amount for the particular cylinder from the injection amount for stoichiometric operation;

second computation means for determining the amount of a torque or rotation speed change that occurs when the fuel injection amount for the particular cylinder is changed by the second injection amount control means; and

output means for outputting the torque or rotation speed change amount determined by the first computation means and the torque or rotation speed change amount determined by the second computation means as index values that indicate the degree of intake air amount variation in the particular cylinder.

14. The intake air amount variation detector according to any one of claims 4, 8, and 12, wherein the injection amount control means periodically changes the fuel injection amount at a frequency outside the range of human perception.

15. The intake air amount variation detector according to any one of claims 1 to 14, further comprising:

conversion means for converting the intake air amount variations among the cylinders to intake valve operating angle variations among the cylinders and/or intake valve lift amount variations among the cylinders.

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# 【書類名】

# 特許請求の範囲

# 【請求項1】

複数の気筒を有する内燃機関において気筒間の吸入空気量のばらつきを検出する装置で S1440348 977

燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から増大側或いは減少側の何れか一方に変化させ る噴射量制御手段と、

前記噴射量制御手段により燃料噴射量を変化させたときのトルク或いは回転数の変化幅 を求める演算手段と、

前記演算手段により求められたトルク或いは回転数の変化幅を、気筒間の吸入空気量の ばらつきの程度を示す指標値として出力する出力手段と、 を備えることを特徴とする吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項2】

前記噴射量制御手段により燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から増大側に変化させ たときの前記変化幅と所定の基準値とを比較する比較手段と、

前記変化幅が前記基準値を超えるときには、気筒間の吸入空気量のばらつきが許容レベ ルを超えていると判定する判定手段とを備えることを特徴とする請求項1記載の吸入空気 量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項3】

前記噴射量制御手段により燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から減少側に変化させ たときの前記変化幅と所定の基準値とを比較する比較手段と、

前記変化幅が前記基準値を下回るときには、気筒間の吸入空気量のばらつきが許容レベ ルを超えていると判定する判定手段とを備えることを特徴とする請求項1記載の吸入空気 量ばらつき検出装置。

#### 【請求項4】

前記噴射量制御手段は、燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から所定量増大側に、或 いは所定量減少側に周期的に変化させるように構成されており、

前記演算手段は、トルク或いは回転数の変化から燃料噴射量の変動周波数と同じ周波数 の変動成分を抽出し、抽出した変動成分の振幅を前記変化幅として求めるように構成され ていることを特徴とする請求項1乃至3の何れか1項に記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装 置。

# 【請求項5】

複数の気筒を有する内燃機関において気筒間の吸入空気量のばらつきを検出する装置で あって、

前記複数の気筒のうち特定気筒の燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から増大側或い は減少側の何れか一方に変化させる噴射量制御手段と、

前記噴射量制御手段により前記特定気筒の燃料噴射量を変化させたときのトルク或いは 回転数の変化幅を求める演算手段と、

前記演算手段により求められたトルク或いは回転数の変化幅を、前記特定気筒における 吸入空気量のずれの程度を示す指標値として出力する出力手段と、 を備えることを特徴とする吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項6】

前記噴射量制御手段により前記特定気筒の燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から増 大側に変化させたときの前記変化幅と所定の基準値とを比較する比較手段と、

前記変化幅が前記基準値を超えるときには、前記特定気筒における吸入空気量の過剰側 へのずれが許容レベルを超えていると判定する判定手段とを備えることを特徴とする請求 項5記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項7】

前記噴射量制御手段により前記特定気筒の燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から減 少側に変化させたときの前記変化幅と所定の基準値とを比較する比較手段と、

前記変化幅が前記基準値を下回るときには、前記特定気筒における吸入空気量の不足側

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へのずれが許容レベルを超えていると判定する判定手段とを備えることを特徴とする請求 項5記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項8】

前記噴射量制御手段は、前記特定気筒の燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から所定。、、量増大側に、或いは所定量減少側に周期的に変化させるように構成されており、

前記演算手段は、トルク或いは回転数の変化から前記特定気筒の燃料噴射量の変動周波数と同じ周波数の変動成分を抽出し、抽出した変動成分の振幅を前記変化幅として求めるように構成されていることを特徴とする請求項5乃至7の何れか1項に記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

#### 【請求項9】

複数の気筒を有する内燃機関において気筒間の吸入空気量のばらつきを検出する装置であって、

燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から増大側或いは減少側の何れか一方に変化させ る噴射量制御手段と、

前記噴射量制御手段により燃料噴射量を変化させたときのトルク或いは回転数の変化幅 を気筒毎に求める演算手段と、

前記演算手段により求められた気筒毎のトルク或いは回転数の変化幅を、各気筒における吸入空気量のずれの程度を示す指標値として出力する出力手段と、

を備えることを特徴とする吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

### 【請求項10】

前記噴射量制御手段により燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から増大側に変化させたときの前記変化幅と所定の基準値とを気筒毎に比較する比較手段と、

前記変化幅が前記基準値を超えるときには、当該気筒における吸入空気量の過剰側へのずれが許容レベルを超えていると判定する判定手段とを備えることを特徴とする篩求項9 記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項11】

前記噴射量制御手段により燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から減少側に変化させたときの前記変化幅と所定の基準値とを気筒毎に比較する比較手段と、

前記変化幅が前記基準値を下回るときには、当該気筒における吸入空気量の不足側へのずれが許容レベルを超えていると判定する判定手段とを備えることを特徴とする請求項9 記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項12】

前記噴射量制御手段は、燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から所定量増大側に、或いは所定量減少側に周期的に変化させるように構成されており、

前記演算手段は、気筒毎にサンプリングしたトルク或いは回転数の変化から燃料噴射量の変動周波数と同じ周波数の変動成分を抽出し、抽出した変動成分の振幅を各気筒における前記変化幅として求めるように構成されていることを特徴とする請求項9乃至11の何れか1項に記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# 【請求項13】

複数の気筒を有する内燃機関において気筒間の吸入空気量のばらつきを検出する装置であって、

前記複数の気筒のうち特定気筒の燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から増大側に変 化させる第1の噴射量制御手段と、

前記第1の噴射量制御手段により前記特定気筒の燃料噴射量を変化させたときのトルク 或いは回転数の変化幅を求める第1の演算手段と、

前記第1の演算手段により求められたトルク或いは回転数の変化幅が所定の基準値を超えていない場合には、前記特定気筒の燃料噴射量をストイキ運転時の噴射量から減少側に変化させる第2の噴射量制御手段と、

○10年のでは、10年間では、10年には、10年には、10年には、10年間では、10年には、1

前記第1の演算手段により求められたトルク或いは回転数の変化幅、及び、前配第2の 演算手段により求められたトルク或いは回転数の変化幅を、前記特定気筒における吸入空 気量のずれの程度を示す指標値として出力する出力手段と、 を備えることを特徴とする吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

【請求項14】

前記噴射量制御手段は、人間が体感可能な周波数帯域外の周波数で燃料噴射量を周期的に変化させることを特徴とする請求項4、8、12の何れか1項に記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

【請求項15】

気筒間の吸入空気量のばらつきを、気筒間の吸気パルプの作用角及び/又はリフト量のばらつきに換算する換算手段を備えることを特徴とする請求項1乃至14の何れか1項に記載の吸入空気量ばらつき検出装置。

# I. List of Required Documents

- d. Information Disclosure Statement listing the documents cited in the JPO office actions.
  - Since no Office Actions were issued, no documents are required to be submitted with an IDS

787S 836 2787 P.19

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#### Disclaimer:

This English translation is produced by machine translation and may contain errors. The JPO, the INPIT, and those who drafted this document in the original language are not responsible for the result of the translation.

#### Notes:

- 1. Untranslatable words are replaced with asterisks (\*\*\*\*).
- 2. Texts in the figures are not translated and shown as it is.

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Dictionary: Last updated 11/16/2007 / Priority:

# Decision to Grant a Patent

Application number: Application for patent 2005-041240

Date of Drafting: Heisei 19(2007) April 17

Patent examiner: NAKAMURA, Tatsuyuki 8503 3Z00

Title of invention: Inhalation air content variation sensing device

The number of claims: 15

Applicant: TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA Representative: TAKAHASHI, Hideki (and 3 others)

This application is to be granted a patent as there is no reason for refusal.

Director General(p.p.) Director(p.p.) Examiner Assistant examiner Manager for Determination of Classification NAKAGAWA, Ryuji NAKAMURA, Tatsuyuki NAKAGAWA, Ryuji 8509 8503 8509

- 1. Distinction of Patent: Usually
- 2. Reference documents: \*\*
- 3. Application of Patent Law, Section 30: Nothing
- 4. Change of Title of Invention: Nothing
- 5. International Patent Classification (IPC) F02D 45/00 362J, F02D 45/00 364B, F02D 13/02 D, F02D 41/04 330J
- 6. Deposition of Microorganism
- 7. Display of Purport that Retroactivity of Filing Date is not Accepted

# Decision to Grant a Patent(Memorandum)

| Application number: Application for pateric 2000 of 1210 | Application nur | nber: Application | for patent | 2005-041240 |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|

- 1. Technical Fields to Be Searched (IPC, DB Name) F02D 45/00 F02D 13/02 F02D 41/04
- 2. Reference patent documents JP,09-032710,A (JP, A) JP,2003-522878,A (JP, A) JP,2004-138036,A (WO, A1) (JP, A) International-Publication the 2005/008052
- 3. Reference books and magazines

[Translation done.]